

The fact is, child labour constitutes only 3.6% of the total labour force in India. Nearly 90% of these children work in their own rural family settings. 84.9% of the working children population is involved in traditional activities such as cultivation, agriculture, livestock handling, fisheries and forestry. Only 8.64% work in manufacturing, servicing and repairs. Of this only 0.8% of child labour work in factories.

The list of occupations in the informal, unorganised sector given below is not exhaustive.

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| • Construction labour | Tanneries |
| • Couriers | Vendors |
| • Domestic workers | Helpers in restaurants, shops, canteens. |
| • Porters | Shoe -shiners |
| • Sweepers and waste re-cyclers | Sex-workers |
| • Factories / Workshops | |

Examples of Home-based industries:

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| • Beedi-rolling | Papad - making |
| • Sub-assembling | Block - making |
| • Incense making | Bindi - making |
| • Paper - bag making | Gem - polishing |
| • Plastic flower making | Cotton -Pad shelling |
| • Grain cleaning | Embroidery |

Carpet Industry :

The Carpet Industry in India extends from Kashmir in the North to Andhra Pradesh in the South and Gujarat in the west to Darjeeling in the Eastern state of Bengal. The carpet weaving is mostly done in cottages, in rural areas, all over India.

India's export of hand-knotted carpets grew significantly in recent years from 565 million in 1979 to \$229 million in 1983. But following exposure of the abuse of child labour, it declined to \$152 million in 1996, the latest year for which complete statistics are available. However this trade continues to depend unduly on massive and abusive use of children as weavers and knotters. The number of children in this industry also grew from an estimated 75,000 child workers in 1980 to 300,000 in 1994. A detailed sample survey of the industry in 1993 by the ILO and the Universities of Minnesota computes the level of child labour as 22 percent of a work force of 600,00 weavers or 130,000 children